

The youngsters were joined in their outrage by American Legion family members from Phoenix and throughout the state, who urged the museum to raise the white flag on its controversial exhibit. Museum officials declined the request, adding that to do so would infringe upon the First Amendment rights of artists featured in the exhibit.

"We don't question any citizen's right to free speech or freedom of expression," says James Phillips, commander of The American Legion Department of Arizona. "In fact, Legionnaires defend the basic rights and freedoms of all citizens as outlined in our Constitution and Bill of Rights. But this particular exhibit was violent and offensive because it highlights obscenity, oppression and desecration of our flag."

Arizona Post 1 member Pete Montoya and his son, Fabian, were among the thousands who visited the exhibit during the early days of its run. When they observed the flag on the floor—a veritable doormat for the disillusioned—they were moved to respond. Onlookers cheered when the father and son picked up the flag, carefully folded it and removed it.

"I didn't want anyone stepping on it," 11-year-old Fabian told reporters at the scene. Museum curators replaced the flag later that day.

It was clear the museum had no intention of either closing or toning down the exhibit. So Legionnaires and other flag-loving citizens decided to exercise their own First Amendment rights. At high noon on April 28, an estimated 2,500 people gathered outside the museum to express their love and respect for the U.S. Flag and the ideals it represents. The occasion was an excellent forum to explain publicly why a constitutional amendment is the only legal means by which the flag can be protected from physical abuse.

"We stand firmly with the people of Arizona and across this great land who find this display of hateful disrespect for the flag truly objectionable," said retired Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, board chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. (CFA). The Medal of Honor recipient of the Vietnam War was invited to make remarks at the gathering, along with Arizona Legion leaders and other CFA activists. "Most Americans find this exhibit a slam against the basic values and respect for institutions most hold dear," he said.

The youngsters from Ms. Clinite's second-grade class were among those in attendance at the Phoenix rally. In an area not known for its rainfall, misty eyes were common as the kids recited the Pledge.

"It is heartwarming to know citizens from every walk of life, every age, creed and color consider the American flag a symbol to be cherished, protected and respected," Phillips said after the rally.

Nor was all of the attention confined to Phoenix. Many in Kentucky, Minnesota, Massachusetts and New Jersey opened up their newspapers that Sunday and saw advertisements about the museum exhibit. The ads contained information about how their congressional lawmakers voted on the proposed flag amendment in 1995.

Senators Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., and John Kerry, D-Mass., joined with 33 of their Senate colleagues to defeat the amendment last December. Bob Torricelli, D-N.J., was among the 120 House members who voted against a similar amendment in June 1995, but that chamber still passed the amendment by the required two-thirds vote.

The advertisement included a toll-free telephone number for readers to call and comment about the exhibit or discuss how their lawmakers voted. More than 75 percent of the callers said they support the amendment and requested more information.

The Phoenix exhibit opened in mid-March and was set to close in mid-June, a few days after Flag Day.

VIRGINIA BOONE HONORED

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on June 16, 1996, our Dade County community lost one of our most dedicated, respected, and loved educators, Mrs. Virginia Boone.

Mrs. Boone, a native West Virginian, moved to Miami in 1951 to further her career in education. She taught at Mae Walters Elementary, and served as an assistant principal at Opa-Locka Elementary. Because of her outstanding ability, she was promoted to principal of Highland Oaks Elementary, while the school was still under construction.

From the moment Mrs. Boone opened the doors of the school for the first time, her name became synonymous with Highland Oaks. She and her husband, Conway Boone, an attorney, thought of every student at her school as a member of her family. Because of her administrative skill and dedication to her students, she was named School Administrator of the Year in 1985 and 1987. While serving as principal of Highland Oaks, she also attended the University of Miami to earn her master's degree in education.

Mrs. Boone retired after serving as the principal of Highland Oaks for 31 years. She was so loved by the students, parents, and teachers of Highland Oaks that they recently petitioned the Dade County school board to rename the school the Virginia A. Boone Elementary School. It is a fitting honor for this remarkable person.

Mrs. Virginia Boone was truly a perfect educator, dedicated to her students and the Miami-Dade community. I salute the exceptional work of Mrs. Boone, and honor her memory.

TRIBUTE TO THE PARISH AND SCHOOL OF ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the parish and school of St. Stanislaus Kostka which is celebrating its centennial year of devoted service to the residents of Brooklyn, NY. As immigrants have continued to flow into the community, St. Stanislaus Kostka has been a vital component in establishing a flourishing neighborhood.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Church and school have been at the cornerstone of community revitalization by providing ongoing refuge and education and by continuing to meet the needs of a diverse populace.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor the parish and school of St. Stanislaus Kostka for its 100 years of contributing endless resources and demonstrating tireless dedication to a community that is an inspira-

tion for all to follow. I ask my colleagues to join with me in this tribute to St. Stanislaus Kostka as we celebrate an institution that perseveres in maintaining community cohesion and responsiveness to neighborhood needs.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

HON. DOUGLAS "PETE" PETERSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of exactly how important it is for us to pass health insurance reform now. Many Members of this body, and policy wonks around this city, are debating the political implications of passing—or not passing—the health insurance reform bill now pending in conference. However, millions of Americans already know the real tragedy of failure to pass this bill. Let me provide just one example.

I recently received a phone call and very touching letter from a Florida resident, Ms. Fran White, who currently has health insurance. Only 5 years ago, she was healthy and maintained an active work schedule of up to 60 hours per week. Unfortunately, she began experiencing health problems in 1991, and last year was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. She continued her employment, albeit at a less aggressive pace, as long as possible. She now is unable to work. That in itself is a tragedy, but it is equally tragic to learn that she will now lose her health insurance coverage effective July 1.

She has done everything she can to find an alternate insurance carrier to cover her. Not surprisingly, she has yet to find one. The reason for denial is her illness, not her spotless record of insurance payments. Although her total medical expenses have peaked at over \$300,000, she has paid all of her out-of-pocket costs; she has even taken on a personal debt of over \$50,000 to pay for uncovered treatments and services.

Ms. White does not want anything from the Government. She does not want to turn to Medicaid. She only wants access to health insurance. We have the chance to give her and the millions of Americans with similar experiences this access by eliminating pre-existing condition exclusions and making health insurance portable. We are so close.

Mr. Speaker, please, let's not let this opportunity fall by the wayside under a cloud of partisan rhetoric. Let's pass health insurance reform now.

TRIBUTE TO WAMPUM BOROUGH

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wampum Borough on its 200th anniversary.

Wampum was the first town to be settled in Lawrence County. It was settled in 1796 by two Irish brothers, Robert and John Davidson.

The famed steel baron and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie had a financial interest in

the local Wampum Furnace. The Wampum mine has supplied a large amount of limestone for steel and cement production, but is better known for its storage capacity. The mine has 2.5 million square feet of storage space. It currently holds various items from 50 industries, most notably 8,000 films from 20th Century Fox and the world's largest optical mirror.

Athletics has played a large part in Wampum's history. Wampum High School basketball team won three state championships in 1950's and 1960's. In 1955, the team went undefeated, 31-0. The coach, L. Butler Hennon was known for unusual practice techniques, such as players wearing weighted jackets and workmen's gloves. Hennon's theory was that such handicaps in practice made things easier in games. His techniques were featured in a Life magazine article and used by the Russian Olympic basketball team. Hennon's son, Don, was a star at Wampum. Don set a regional scoring record that lasted almost 40 years. Don went on to be an All-American at the University of Pittsburgh.

The Hennons were not the only famous athletic family to call Wampum home. The Allen brothers, Harold, Ron, and Richie, all played major league baseball. Richie was the most proficient of the three. Richie has the distinction of being the first African-American to play in the Philadelphia Phillies organization. In 1972, with the Chicago White Sox, Richie was named the American League Most Valuable Player. Richie led the league with a .308 batting average. Richie also slugged 37 home runs and had 133 runs batted in.

Wampum is certainly a special place with special people. So today, Mr. Speaker, I join with all my colleagues in the House in congratulating Wampum Borough on the momentous occasion of its 200th anniversary.

WELFARE REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, July 3, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WELFARE REFORM: NECESSARY AND POSSIBLE

Welfare reform remains a major priority for Hoosiers. I am disappointed that partisan bickering has prevented enactment of meaningful welfare reform that would encourage work and parental responsibility and meet the basic needs of poor children.

The good news is that many states, including Indiana, have been successfully experimenting with ways to reform the welfare

system. I believe that states should be given flexibility to adopt innovative reforms. Welfare reform on the national level is still necessary, and state successes can serve as models as Congress prepares once again to consider welfare reform.

STATE EFFORTS

Forty states have been granted waivers of federal regulations in order to proceed with their own reforms. In 1994, Governor Bayh requested several waivers so that Indiana could implement a broad package of reforms. With my strong support, the Clinton Administration granted them.

Hoosiers who receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) must now sign a personal responsibility agreement, which requires them to make sure their children receive immunizations and stay in school. No cash benefits are provided for children born more than 10 months after their parents go on welfare, and cash benefits are stripped from anyone who commits welfare fraud. Teenage mothers who receive welfare must live with their parents or in another adult-supervised setting.

Most importantly, the Indiana plan focuses on moving welfare recipients into work through the IMPACT job placement program. Persons who enroll in IMPACT pledge that they will seek a job and accept any reasonable employment offer and acknowledge that the state will cease cash AFDC benefits after two years. In return, the state aims to remove barriers to employment by helping IMPACT enrollees to locate available jobs and providing training, child care, transportation, and health care.

The Indiana plan provides incentives for employers to hire welfare recipients. For example, once welfare recipients start a job, their AFDC benefit may be diverted to their employer, who can use these funds for business development and employee benefits. The state also provides funds for on-the-job training of former welfare recipients. Indiana provides one year of transitional child care and Medicaid benefits to families who have moved off the welfare rolls and into work.

The results one year after implementation of these changes are encouraging. From January through September of 1995, the number of households receiving AFDC dropped by 20%. Welfare recipients are being placed into jobs at a rate of 1,000 per month. Since 1993, the number of AFDC recipients has fallen 30%—the greatest decrease of any state in the nation. Indiana now has another request pending for further waivers of federal regulations.

PRINCIPLES FOR REFORM

Without doubt, welfare reform is urgently needed. Welfare still too often conflicts with bedrock American values: it discourages work, promotes out-of-wedlock childbearing, breaks up families, and fails to hold parents responsible.

Most Hoosiers want to help people in genuine need. They are willing to aid people who cannot work because of disability, or who face dire economic distress through no fault

of their own. What they oppose is assisting people who are capable of working but unwilling to do so.

The key goal in welfare reform must be to promote self-sufficiency and responsibility without punishing innocent children for the mistakes of their parents. That means that from the moment someone applies for welfare, the emphasis must be on moving that person into a job and eliminating any obstacles that stand in the way. Those who need training to move into the workforce should receive it. Sometimes it's a matter of providing basic instruction on how to write a résumé, interview for a job, or locate job prospects. A time limit on welfare benefits for those able to work can be a useful incentive. Work must pay more than welfare.

Far too many non-custodial parents fail to provide financial support to their children. I have cosponsored a bill which would make it easier to track down delinquent parents and withhold child support payments from their paycheck.

The lack of high-quality, affordable child care is a major problem for many parents, especially those seeking to pull themselves out of poverty. It is a difficult problem to address because child care is expensive and the need is so great. But we must make efforts to ensure that no one is on welfare simply because they cannot find child care. Providing basic health and child care to families for a while after they leave the welfare rolls can be a good investment if it helps families successfully make the transition to long-term financial independence.

I oppose efforts to raise taxes on working families on the edge of poverty, as some in Congress have proposed. I also do not think that cuts in welfare should be enacted in order to provide tax breaks to the well-to-do. Welfare reform should stand on its own merits, apart from the budget debate. We must ensure that welfare provides an adequate safety net during an economic downturn, when more people are likely to need it.

I am also concerned that some proposals would dramatically limit poor children's access to health care and nutrition programs. Unhealthy, malnourished children have a lesser chance to grow into healthy, self-supporting adults. As a nation we will pay dearly if we fail to meet the basic health needs of children.

There is really more consensus on welfare reform than the political rhetoric suggests. But because welfare reform is such a potent political issue, with each side looking for the advantage, the agreements have been obscured. It's almost as if politicians from opposite parties are afraid to admit they agree on a lot of these issues.

Saddest of all is that the ultimate victims of a failed welfare system are children. Their needs, which should be the constant focus of the welfare reform debate, have sometimes been lost. I am convinced that if cooler heads prevail we can enact worthwhile reforms. I will work to tone down the rhetoric and turn up the pressure to reform welfare this year.